

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

The most remarkable article in "The Catholic World," for June is an original paper on "Religion in New-York," which contains some facts that deserve serious attention. The author shows the insufficiency of church accommodation for the professed Protestant portion of the community, especially the poorer classes. Below Canon and Gravel, it is estimated that there are 135,000 inhabitants, and only 20 Protestant churches and Mission chapels with sittings in the aggregate for 15,000. Between Canon and Fourteenth-street, there are 83 churches for a population of 252,000; and above Fourteenth-street, 82 churches for a population of 418,000. The difficulty is that the churches are distributed almost wholly with reference to the convenience of the wealthier classes; and there are from 35,000 to 40,000 of the non-Catholic population who attend no place of worship at all. The lower section of the city has been almost entirely given up by Protestants. Probably the religious denominations most interested in this state of affairs will not agree with the writer in his conclusion that Protestantism is in no condition to keep what it has or recover what it has lost; but the facts and figures which he offers are not matters of opinion. The Catholic population is estimated at from 300,000 to 400,000, and is increasing at the rate of 20,000 per annum. There are 32 churches, the aggregate capacity of which (allowing for two, three, or four separate Sunday classes, which is attended by a separate congregation) is about 300,000, and these churches are distributed through the city with very careful reference to the wants of the people. The other original articles in this number of "The Catholic World," are a continuation of "Problems of the Age," "Two Pictures of Life in France before 1848," several pieces of poetry, and reviews of new publications.

We have received the first number of the "American Journal of Numerics and Bulletin of the American Numismatic and Archaeological Society," a monthly periodical, edited by Frank H. Norton, and published in this city.

**Chromo-Lithography.**  
The recent publication, by Messrs. L. Prang & Co., of Boston, of some fine specimens of Chromo-lithography, particularly one representing a "Group of Chickens," after Tait, which we regard as the most creditable piece of work of this class yet produced in America, has excited considerable inquiry as to how such work is done; we have, therefore, thought that a brief description of the process might not prove uninteresting to our readers.

Chromo-lithography is the art of picture-printing in colors, and, although not a very recent invention, it has been greatly modified and improved since its origin, with the result of a colored mechanical printing, as the colors are laid on one after another, mingling the different tints and shades until the picture is complete, in a manner analogous to painting with a brush, and provided the man who undertakes the work is a skilful artist, there is no reason why a Chromo-lithographer should fall short, in point of expression or delicacy, of the original painting which it is designed to imitate.

A few words on ordinary lithography will first be necessary in order to give the reader a clear idea of the Chromo process. Briefly, then, a lithograph is a chemical drawing upon stone, the drawing being made with a greasy or oily ink upon the smooth quality of limestone found in the quarries of Solenhofen, Bavaria. All other processes of engraving are mechanical rather than chemical, as in wood or type work, where the impression is obtained from a raised design, or in copper and steel plates, where the design is made by deep incisions, into which the ink is rubbed. In the lithographic process, however, there is neither relief nor incision design—the operation is dependent simply upon the chemical affinity existing between the greasy matter employed in the ink and that upon the stone, and the antagonism which this matter has for water, with which the stone is in all cases dampened before pulling an impression.

In Chromo-lithography the process is identical, except that a different stone is required for every color employed, and the ink is a species of color, similar to that adopted by painters for painting. The number of stones used depends upon the number of colors required, usually varying between 10 and 20, and the time necessary to prepare these stones for an elaborate piece of work extends over months, and sometimes years; but the number of colors in any given picture is not always an indication of the number of stones employed, as the colors and tints are multiplied by combination in being printed one over another; thus, in an engraving in which 15 stones are used, there may be upward of 100 different shades of color obtained by this means. The amount of labor and detail involved in drawing the different parts of the design upon so many stones is almost inconceivable to one who is uninitiated. The modes employed are as follows:

From the first stone a general tint is laid, covering nearly the whole picture, and as many sheets of paper as there are to be copies of the picture are printed from it. A second stone is then prepared, embracing all the shades of another color, and the sheets already printed with the first color are worked over this stone. A third, fourth, fifth and sixth follow, each one repeating the process and adding some new color, advancing the picture step by step, until the requisite number of colors is obtained, and the coloring is complete. After this, the time required for drying each before the application of a succeeding one, involves months of careful and anxiously watched labor. Great care and skill are required to perfect what is technically termed the "registering," or that part of the process which provides that the paper falls upon every stone in exactly the same position relatively to the outline. To attain this end, steel brass pins are fixed in a frame surrounding each stone. These pins penetrate the paper in making the first impression, and the holes thus made being carefully placed over, the pins in all subsequent impressions, insure the certainty of the outline on every sheet. Always falling into the same position on every sheet, the artist leaves the rest to be sized, embossed, varnished, mounted and framed. The embossing is that part of the operation necessary to break the glossy lining and set the hard surface, a broken structure being given to the print by being passed through the press in contact with a roughened stone.

Of course the Chromo-lithographer, as well as the Printer, must be artist, in feeling at least, or they never can attain any degree of competency, and this requisite, combined with the necessity of long study and training, is the reason why so little is done in this branch of the business in this country. We are prepared to say as much, and we are already far ahead in this direction, and are increasing the growing interest of an art-loving community in such matters, and trust that those who devote their time and means to it will receive the energetic support they deserve. The number of successful Chromo-lithographers even in Europe is very limited, therefore the view of the degree of perfection which has been attained in their works.

Messrs. Prang & Co. have other works of this nature in press, and we trust they may receive the encouragement necessary to enable them to continue the production of so many beautiful and instructive works of art among us, and educate the taste and the masses, by placing within their reach, for the first time, the finest works of the great masters in painting.

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